

3.9 Ownership and Land Use – Parks and Recreation

The Puget Sound Action Area includes marine and freshwater systems, and associated riparian and nearshore areas. The majority of the surrounding land ownership is private (53%), followed by federal (36%), state/local (10%), and tribal (1%) (see Figure 3.2-4).

Recreational land use within the action area includes state and federal parks, and privately-owned and developed recreational facilities, including facilities with boat landings. The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation provides a website displaying information about Washington's motorboat launches by county (Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation 2003). Information presented was collected during a 1998 field survey of all publicly-accessible motorboat launches in Washington State. Boat launches within the Puget Sound Action Area, by county, are presented in Table 3.9-1.

Table 3.9-1. Freshwater and saltwater boat launches in the 12 counties within the Puget Sound action area.

Region	Washington County	Freshwater Boat Launches ¹	Saltwater Boat Launches ¹	Total Boat Launches ¹
Strait of Juan de Fuca	Clallam	2	19	21
Hood Canal	Jefferson	5	16	21
	Kitsap	13	19	32
	Mason	18	13	31
South Puget Sound	King	34	6	40
	Pierce	18	20	38
	Thurston	14	6	20
North Puget Sound	Snohomish	23	6	29
	Skagit	30	8	38
	Whatcom	20	9	29
	Island	1	18	19
	San Juan	4	13	17
Total	12	182	153	335

¹ Boat launches within the Puget Sound Action Area. Clallam, Jefferson, Thurston, and Mason Counties have additional boat landings outside the action area.

Many of these publicly-accessible boat launches are owned and managed by either Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife or Washington State Parks. The diverse Washington State Parks system includes 125 parks and 250,000 acres of land managed. It ranks sixth among all 50 states in number of areas managed, fourth in day-use attendance, and eighth in number of overnight visitors served. Many of these parks are located on river banks, beaches and estuaries within the Puget Sound

1 Action Area. Most offer opportunities for either saltwater or freshwater fishing (Washington Parks and
2 Recreation Commission 2002).

3 In a survey conducted by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, it was estimated that 13
4 percent of the Washington state population annually participates in fishing (Interagency Committee for
5 Outdoor Recreation 2002). Using the results of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
6 survey, the state's 12-county population within the Puget Sound Action Area on April 1, 2000,
7 estimated at 3,978,513 citizens (Table 3.2-2), would translate into approximately 517,000 recreational
8 fishermen. This estimate includes persons fishing for salmon (within the scope of this Environmental
9 Impact Statement), and persons fishing for non-salmon species (not addressed by this Environmental
10 Impact Statement).